

**ABSTRACT**

In addition, the present invention utilizes an abridged bandwidth request/grant protocol to allocate bandwidth. The present inventive abridged bandwidth request/grant protocol system utilizes padding packets to request a reduction in bandwidth allocation to a CPE. In one  
5 embodiment, a base station modem alerts a base station CPU when the BS modem receives a padding packet from a CPE. After alerting the BS CPU the present inventive method can reduce the associated CPE's bandwidth allocation. The present invention is "abridged" because it does not require zero bandwidth request messages. By using a combination of  
bandwidth allocation techniques, the present invention advantageously makes use of the  
10 efficiency benefits associated with each technique.